

REMARKS

The drawings of Figs. 9-11 are amended to indicate that the drawings are of the prior art as indicated at page 15, lines 17-24 of the specification. Replacement drawing sheets are enclosed herewith.

Claims 1-10 are amended to more clearly define the claimed invention.

It is believed that this response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 20, 2003, and that no new matter is added.

Claims 1-10 are objected to because in Claim 1, lines 3-4 it appears that "holes" should be changed to --hole--; in lines 6-10, Applicants should clarify what Applicants intended by "whereby...the distributing board"; and in Claims 2-10, the phrases "characterized in that" should be rephrased. Reconsideration and removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is amended to change "through-holes" to "through-hole" and to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claims 2-10 are amended to rephrase "characterized in that".

In view of the amendments to Claims 1-10, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The present claimed invention is an electrical junction box having an upper cover, a distributing board provided with a busbar, a wiring sheet, and a lower cover formed with a through-hole for receiving a terminal of the busbar. The wiring sheet is formed with a through-hole for receiving the terminal of the busbar, and the through-holes of the lower cover and the wiring sheet

each have a progressively smaller sectional area. The terminal of the busbar is inserted into the through-hole of the wiring sheet and further into the through-hole of the lower cover when the lower cover is combined with the wiring sheet which is combined with the distributing board.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant admitted prior art (APA). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that APA (Figures 9-11) discloses an electrical junction box having an upper cover (1); a distributing board (4); a wiring sheet (6); a lower cover (10) formed with a plurality of through-holes; a plurality of terminals of bus bars (5); and that the wiring sheet (6) is formed with a plurality of through-holes for receiving the terminals of the bus bars.

It is respectfully submitted that in the APA a through-hole for receiving a terminal of the bus bar is shown only in the lower cover (8a in Fig. 10). A through-hole is not shown or described as being formed in the wiring sheet, as defined in present Claim 1.

It is described in the present specification, page 44 line 19 to page 45 line 9 and in FIG. 8, that the wiring sheet (6) is formed with the through-hole (7a) for the busbar (5). Such an arrangement allows a smaller assembling tolerance when the busbar (5) is received in the through-hole (8a) of the lower cover (10). Thus, it is possible to minimize the through hole (8a) of the lower cover (10) and its associated surrounding portion. Accordingly, the through-hole of the lower cover may have a shorter insertion length, which enables size minimization, weight reduction of the lower cover and cost reduction of molding dies for forming the lower cover.

Claim 1, as now amended, provides that the through-holes of the lower cover and the wiring sheet each have progressively smaller sectional areas, that the terminal of the bus bar is inserted into the through-hole of the wiring sheet, and further into the through-hole of the cover sheet when the lower cover is combined with the wiring sheet which is combined with the distributing board. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the APA.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is distinct from and nonobvious in view of the APA.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above discussion, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that APA discloses the claimed invention, except for the through-hole being tapered, and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the through-hole so that it has a tapered cross section since it was known in the art that a tapered hole will assist in the insertion of the terminal.

Claim 1, from which Claims 2, 4, and 6 depend, is discussed above. It is respectfully submitted that, at least for the reasons discussed above in regard to Claim 1, Claims 2, 4, and 6 are distinct from and nonobvious in view of APA. Removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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It is believed that Claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance. The allowance of Claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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